

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 11, 2003 (Paper No. 3). Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10, and 12 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 12 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10 have been amended, Claim 12 has been added, and Claims 8 and 11 have been cancelled herein.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 7 to address specific points raised in this rejection. In particular, Applicants amended Claim 1 to further clarify and define the term “second component”. In addition, Applicants amended Claim 7 to further clarify and define the composition of a “repeating unit”, which thereby defines “a plurality of molecular chains”, which contain such repeating units. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,576,020 (Iritani I) or 5,644,012 (Iritani II). Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection.

One important feature of the present claimed invention is that it is a glycopolymer comprised of a plurality of molecular chains, wherein each molecular chain is crosslinked. By virtue of the crosslinking of the molecular chains, it is possible to form a polymer that is both of a high-molecular weight and hard enough to be press molded for shaping.

The Office Action, on page 4, alleges that the Iritani patents renders the presently claimed invention obvious because "Iritani et al., teach the copolymer compounds which are comprised of a repeating unit, which can be saccharide, oligosaccharide or polysaccharide and a bifunctional agent".

The Iritani patents, as understood by Applicants, teach a polymer that includes saccharide units. However, although the Iritani patents are seen to disclose the linking of such units, they are not seen to disclose or teach the crosslinking of parallel molecular chains in a polymer. To the best of Applicants' knowledge, there is no mention of the term "crosslinking" or "crosslink" in either of the Iritani patents. As known in the art, crosslinking is clearly distinguished from linking. As indicated in the enclosed definition of "crosslink" from the Merriam Webster Dictionary web-site, a crosslink is "a crosswise connecting part (as an atom or group) that connects parallel chains in a complex chemical molecule (as a polymer)". Meanwhile, as indicated in the enclosed definition of "link" from the Merriam Webster Dictionary web-site, a link is defined as merely a "bond".

Moreover, as indicated above, the crosslinking of units allows a polymer to have a hard makeup and high molecular weight. The Iritani patents disclose a polymer to be used as coating material for pharmaceutical preparations. As Iritani I indicates, on column 6, line 64, in U.S. Patent 5,576,020, a polymer needs to be highly soluble to be used as a coating material. However, low solubility is a characteristic of high molecular weight polymers. Accordingly, Applicants submit that there is no motivation seen for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the polymer in the Iritani patents so that it is

crosslinked, as in the presently claimed invention, especially in light of the intended use in the Iritani patents as a coating material.

In view of the above, the applied art is not seen to teach at least the features of a glycopolymer comprised of a plurality of molecular chains, each of which is crosslinked as in independent Claims 1, 7 and 12. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 7 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised in the Office Action, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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link[3,noun]	<input type="button" value=""/>
link[4,intransitive verb]	<input type="button" value=""/>
chain-link fence	<input type="button" value=""/>
cross-link	<input type="button" value=""/>

Main Entry: **link**

Pronunciation: /li[n]g/ k

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle English, of Scandinavian origin; akin to Old Norse *hlekkr* chain; akin to Old English *hlanc* lank

Date: 15th century

1 : a connecting structure: as **a** (1) : a single ring or division of a chain (2) : one of the standardized divisions of a surveyor's chain that is 7.92 inches (20.1 centimeters) long and serves as a measure of length **b** : CUFF LINK **c** : BOND **3c d** : an intermediate rod or piece for transmitting force or motion; especially : a short connecting rod with a hole or pin at each end **e** : the fusible member of an electrical fuse

2 : something analogous to a link of chain: as **a** : a segment of sausage in a chain **b** : a connecting element or factor <found a *link* between smoking and cancer> **c** : a unit in a communication system **d** : an identifier attached to an element (as an index term) in a system in order to indicate or permit connection with other similarly identified elements

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Click on the example word to hear it pronounced.

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\&\ as e in <u>kitten</u>	\E\ as ea in <u>easy</u>	\oi\ as oy in <u>boy</u>
\&rlas ur/er in <u>further</u>	\g\ as g in <u>go</u>	\th\ as th in <u>thin</u>
\a\ as a in <u>ash</u>	\i\ as i in <u>hit</u>	\th\ as th in <u>the</u>
\A\ as a in <u>ace</u>	\I\ as i in <u>ice</u>	\u\ as oo in <u>loot</u>
\ä\ as o in <u>mop</u>	\j\ as j in <u>job</u>	\u\ as oo in <u>foot</u>
\au\ as ou in <u>out</u>	\[ng]\ as ng in <u>sing</u>	\y\ as y in <u>yet</u>
\ch\ as ch in <u>chin</u>	\O\ as o in <u>go</u>	\zh\ as si in <u>vision</u>

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One entry found for cross-link.

Main Entry: **cross-link**

Pronunciation: "krohs" "Li [ng] k

Function: *noun*

Date: 1936

: a crosswise connecting part (as an atom or group) that connects parallel chains in a complex chemical molecule (as a polymer)

- **cross-link verb**

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\&\ as e in <u>kitten</u>	\E\ as ea in <u>easy</u>	\oi\ as oy in <u>boy</u>
\&\ as ur/er in <u>further</u>	\g\ as g in <u>go</u>	\th\ as th in <u>thin</u>
\a\ as a in <u>ash</u>	\i\ as i in <u>hit</u>	\th\ as th in <u>the</u>

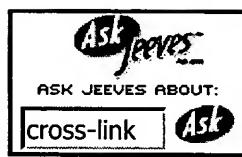
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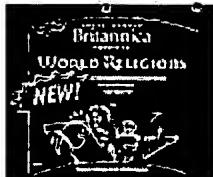
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\au\ as ou in out
\ch\ as ch in chin

\I\ as i in ice
\j\ as j in job
\[ng]\ as ng in sing
\O\ as o in go

\ü\ as oo in boot
\u\ as o in foot
\y\ as y in yet
\zh\ as si in vision

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